GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:627
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
DEFINITION OF FOREST UNDER FOREST LAWS
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Laws do not define "forest" explicitly;

(b) whether the ambit of the Forest Act, 1927 and the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is defined by the Supreme Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the final decision of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Supreme Court vide its order dated 12-12-96 defined "forest" which is to be understood according to its dictionary meaning for the purpose of Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The term "forest land", occurring in Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, will not only include forest as understood in the dictionary sense, but any area recorded as forest in the Government record irrespective of ownership.